Million $ Match! Donate Now to Maximize Your Impact!

04/10/24 • BIG TECH › NEWS

CHD Files FOIA Requests: Why Did Government Shut Down Studies on Cellphone Radiation and Cancer?

The requests are for key communications and research documents related to studies that were underway and the factors that led the National Institute of Environmental and Health Sciences to discontinue the studies, despite previous research finding evidence of cancer and DNA damage related to cellphone use.

By Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.

11

Miss a day, miss a lot. *Subscribe to The Defender's Top News of the Day.* ***It's free.***

Children's Health Defense (CHD) today filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for documents and communications related to the agency's decision to discontinue studies on the potential health effects of cellphone radiofrequency radiation (RFR) — even after a 10-year, $30-million study, completed in 2018, found evidence of cancer and DNA damage.

"We think it is important to understand what led to this decision, because we know too often big industry interests play a significant role" in shutting down this type of research, said Miriam Eckenfels-Garcia, director of CHD's Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) & Wireless program.

Eckenfels-Garcia told The Defender it's "truly astonishing that the government has decided to stop research into the health effects of wireless radiation instead of deepening it, in light of ever-growing evidence of harm."

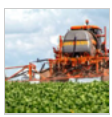
CHD sent two requests to the National Institute of Environmental and Health Sciences (NIEHS), a subagency of NIH, whose scientists had been studying wireless radiation.

Donate Now

You make the difference.

GUIDESTAR PLATINUM SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY 2020

Latest News


Taxpayers Stuck With Bill to Clean Up Water Polluted by Big Ag's Chemical Fertilizer, Animal Waste

Target Illegally Collects Customers' Biometric Data, Class Action Lawsuit Alleges

In Japan, Tens of Thousands Protest WHO's 'Supranational Grab Over Global Health'

MORE NEWS

Latest Views

WHO Report Predicting 77% Rise in Cancers by 2050 Ignores 'Turbo Cancers' in Young People

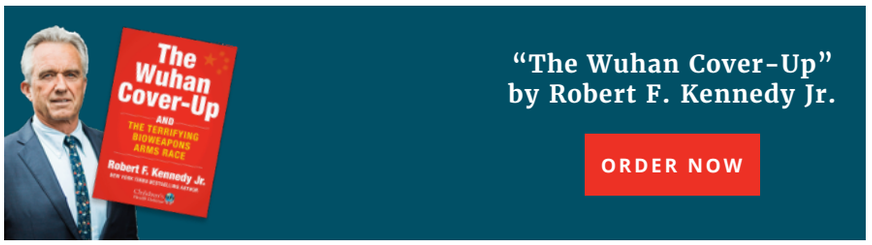
'Very Bad Idea': Harvard M.D. Wants to Let Pharmacies Hand Out Antidepressants Without a Prescription

COVID Shots During Pregnancy Linked With Rise in Fetal Deaths, Leaked Emails Suggest

MORE VIEWS

The requests are for key communications and study documents that could shed light on the research government scientists were conducting when before it was shut down, and what factors led to the shut-down.

"By working together at the outset," CHD staff attorney Risa Evans wrote in the FOIA letters, "we can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future."



Why stop studying wireless radiation now?

As The Defender reported, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in January announced via an updated fact sheet that it has no plans to further study the effects of cellphone RFR on human health.

This was after the program's 10-year study, published in 2018, found "clear evidence" that RFR exposure was linked to malignant heart tumors, "some evidence" linking it to malignant brain tumors, and "some evidence" linking it to both malignant and benign adrenal gland tumors and DNA damage in rats.

NTP is an "interagency partnership" of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the NIEHS.

After publishing the study, government scientists conducted follow-up studies on the impact of RFR exposure on behavior and stress — especially stress on the heart, according to the NTP's cellphone RFR website.

The follow-up studies also sought to "evaluate further" the 2018 study finding that RFR exposure caused DNA damage.

The research was "technically challenging and more resource intensive than expected" and "no further work" is planned, according to NTP's RFR website.

According to the NTP website, the program "strives to remain at the cutting edge of scientific research and the development and application of new technologies for modern toxicology and molecular biology" and "provides the scientific basis for programs, activities, and policies that promote health or lead to the prevention of disease."

"So why would its scientists stop studying wireless radiation?" asked Eckenfels-Garcia. "We want to know."

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's *New* Book: "Vax-Unvax"

ORDER NOW

'I thought that was the right next step'

Brian Berridge, DVM, Ph.D., NTP's scientific director until January 2023, confirmed that the follow-up studies were underway during his tenure and that the decision to no longer study RFR happened after he stepped down.

"The work was being done while I was there — with my blessing," he told The Defender. "I thought that was the right next step."

Large studies like the one the NTP did in 2018, Berridge said, raise questions that "ultimately take additional studies" to understand better.

For example, the follow-up studies were looking at whether the negative health outcomes the 2018 study saw in rats — cancerous tumors and DNA damage —

Get FREE News & Updates!

First Name..

Last Name..

Email..

SIGN UP

Get Text Alerts

Sign up for breaking news from The Defender.

Currently only eligible for numbers in the U.S. and Canada.

1234567890

Phone

REQUIRED. Phone number must be in a standard 10-digit format: 1234567890 or 123-456-7890

CONTINUE

could rightly be attributed to RFR or to some other aspect of the experimental conditions, such as living 24/7 in a small metal chamber.

CHD's first FOIA request seeks more details about what the follow-up studies entailed.

The request asked agency officials to hand over "all protocols, standard operating procedures, and other records describing the methods, procedures, and/or study goals of every study planned or conducted by DTT [Division of Translational Toxicology] to follow up on the rodent studies previously conducted by the National Toxicology Program."

Your support helps fund this work, and CHD's related advocacy, education and scientific research.

DONATE NOW

Four government employees named in FOIA request

CHD's second FOIA request asked for all communications between key researchers and officials from Feb. 1, 2023, to Feb. 1, 2024 — when NTP appeared to be conducting follow-up studies and when it decided to discontinue them.

The FOIA request names four government employees:

- Robert C. Sills, DVM, Ph.D., who at the time was the acting scientific director of NIEHS' DTT. Scientists with DTT — who commonly work on NTP's projects — were the ones conducting the follow-up studies, according to the NTP website.
- Stephanie Smith-Roe, Ph.D., the DTT scientist supervising the follow-up studies, according to a former government scientist who chose to remain anonymous.
- Nigel J. Walker, Ph.D., acting chief of DTT's Systems Toxicology Branch, who was responsible for managing the follow-up studies, according to another former government scientist who chose to remain anonymous.
- Rick Woychik, Ph.D., director of NIEHS, who sets the budget for NIEHS, including DTT, according to Devra Davis, Ph.D., MPH, a toxicologist and epidemiologist who served on the NTP's board of scientific counselors in the 1980s when it launched.

The request seeks communications related to the funding and termination of the studies.

It's unclear whether some of the follow-up studies were prematurely terminated or whether they had simply completed their research goals, with no further studies planned.

For instance, the NTP cellphone RFR website states that the researchers had completed "feasibility testing" of a small-scale RFR exposure system for doing the research.

It appears they planned to use the small-scale RFR exposure system to "determine the impact of RFR exposure on behavior and stress, conduct real-time physiological monitoring, including evaluation of heart rate, investigate whether RFR exposure induces heating, and evaluate further whether RFR exposure causes DNA damage."

But the NTP website does not say whether researchers had achieved these research goals or, if they hadn't yet, at what point in the research process the decision was made to no longer study wireless radiation. It only states:

> "The research using this small-scale RFR exposure system was technically challenging and more resource intensive than expected.
>
> "In addition, this exposure system was designed to study the frequencies and modulations used in 2G and 3G devices, but is not representative of newer technologies such as 4G/4G-LTE, or 5G (which is still not fully defined).

"Taking these factors into consideration, no further work with this RFR exposure system will be conducted and NIEHS has no further plans to conduct additional RFR exposure studies at this time."

The FOIA request also targets communications related to the overall execution and management of the follow-up studies, and it seeks emails or other communications containing any follow-up study data for interpretation, evaluation or review.

NIEHS deflects questions about the studies

Before CHD filed the FOIA requests, The Defender reached out repeatedly to various NIEHS staff for information about the follow-up studies and the decision to end RFR research.

Some of the questions The Defender asked included:

- Where can the public find the follow-up studies' standard operating procedures and protocols?
- What is the status of the data gathered in the follow-up studies? Was it ever reviewed, and if so, by whom? If not, why not?
- The NTP cellphone RFR website states, "NIEHS has completed the feasibility testing of this small-scale RFR exposure system, and the results will be made publicly available and posted on this webpage when internal reviews are finished." What sort of "internal reviews" are being conducted? By whom? What is the anticipated completion date of the reviews and when will the results be published?
- An earlier version of NTP's cellphone RF radiation webpage (updated Nov. 30, 2023) stated that these studies were expected to be published in 2023-2024. Why haven't the studies been published?
- Why would U.S. civilian governmental efforts to study the potential impacts of wireless radiation stop as the U.S. Department of Defense continues to study the problem and as the European Union has provided multi-million dollar grants for multidisciplinary studies?

The NIEHS Office of Communications consistently told The Defender that NTP's cellphone RFR website "has all the information we have to share at this time. We will update the webpage when we have more information."

Subscribe to The Defender – It's Free!

First Name.. Last Name.. Email.. SIGN UP

SUGGEST A CORRECTION

Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.

Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D., is a reporter and researcher for The Defender based in Fairfield, Iowa.

Sign up for free news and updates from Children's Health Defense. CHD focuses on legal strategies to defend the health of our children and obtain justice for those injured. We can't do it without your support.

Republishing Guidelines

Children's Health Defense Comment Policy

We welcome relevant and respectful comments. Off-topic comments may be removed.

Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.

Got it

11 Comments

Login

Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name

4 • Share

Best Newest Oldest

holisticpoet

7 days ago

Why study something when you already know the answer, and you do not want anyone to know what that answer is?

10 0 Reply

Kim from Brooklyn

6 days ago

At this point, even the ignorant to world politics, etc. can see the truth. Everything is corrupt in one way or another. They feed each other so they need each other.

Watch what happens when they no longer need you...?

This, I believe is what is happening.

4 0 Reply

Gary Brown

6 days ago

Mar 6, 2023 Kent Chamberlin PhD Wireless Health Effects: Cell Towers and 5G

see more

3 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo → Gary Brown

3 days ago

I have a device that tests CAT5/6 ethernet cables.It includes a remote that detects EMF signals (Dirty Electricity - no, electricity doesn't just travel through the wires). It gives an audible signal. The stronger the signal, the louder it gets. People would be shocked at the number of frequencies that we are exposed to on a daily basis. If I hold the "wand" up to certain light switches and receptacles, I can hear television stations! How's that for an invisible invader?

3 0 Reply

Gary Brown → Ricky Ricardo

3 days ago

A great comment and analogy friend!

1 0 Reply

r2bzjudge

6 days ago

"...the agency's decision to discontinue studies on the potential health effects of cellphone (RFR) — even after a 10-year, $30-million study, completed in 2018, found evidence of cancer and DNA damage."

That explains the NIH decision. Further honest study would confirm conclusions of the 10 year study. Can't have that happen. There is too much at stake. $Billions. After Lazarus did the Harvard Patriot study of VAERS, they wanted to do more studies to see whether H P was an outlier. The CDC shut down any further study. No doubt the CDC knew that the H P result was in the ballpark of the under reporting factor on VAERS. Steve Kirsch came up with an under reporting factor of 41, compared to 100 for H P. Further testing would have been an embarrassment for the CDC.

2 0 Reply

Isthisthingon r2bzjudge
6 days ago

And these studies done on mice were only testing 3G, and 4G! Not 5G! I just saw some cellphone ad talking about 10G!

1 0 Reply

Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago

People continually ask different questions pertaining to the evils of this society...The answer is always the same: The love of Money, Power and Control!

1 0 Reply

Gary Brown Ricky Ricardo
3 days ago

The issue is as old as time itself, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Lord Acton

1 0 Reply

Mark Allen
6 days ago

We live in a world of lies, but truth ultimately prevails. Life and the universe obey laws and principles, being corrupt will fail in the end.

1 0 Reply

GarySummers
6 days ago edited

"Military Microwave Weapons Used on U.S. Civilians:"

1) More than 300,000 Targeted Individuals in the U.S., are being tracked and attacked with High-Powered Microwave (HPM) weapons, **from satellites and cell towers, 24/7.** These weapons are controlled from Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado. See our pictures of microwave burns as proof: https://www.targetedjustice...
This is the same weapon system, used on the U.S. Diplomats in Cuba, resulting in "Havana Syndrome."

Many famous people are Targeted Individuals: Ed Snowden, Julian Assange, and William Binney. Roseanne Barr, Cardi B, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, "Senator Ron Johnson" (R-WI), Dr Steven Greer MD, Randy Quaid, Dennis Kucinich (former Congressman), Brian Wilson (Beach Boys), Billy Koch (former Oakland A's pitcher), John Frusciante (Red Hot Chili Peppers) and John McAfee (dec.). They are hit with microwave attacks, or Morgellons, or Voice-to-skull (V2K) every day.

2) Most people in the world, are being precisely tracked by microwave pulses using Lockheed GPS satellites, operated by the U.S. Space Force, Squadron 2, at Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado Springs. This is the largest satellite operations facility in the world

see more

0 0 Reply

Subscribe Privacy Do Not Sell My Data

Children's Health Defense

Children's Health Defense® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to end childhood health epidemics by working aggressively to eliminate harmful exposures, hold those responsible accountable and establish safeguards to prevent future harm. We fight corruption, mass surveillance and censorship that put profits before people as well as advocate for worldwide rights to health freedom and bodily autonomy.

THE DEFENDER IS AVAILABLE IN:

ENGLISH SPANISH PORTUGUESE GERMAN ITALIAN FRENCH

TAKE ACTION

DONATE FREE SIGN-UP BECOME A MEMBER

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. EIN #26-0388604

© 2016 - 2024 Children's Health Defense® • All Rights Reserved • Sitemap